(v) Visit of the Area Officers of the Ministry at regular intervals to State/DRDAs.

(vi) The Ministry has started obtaining the information from the State Government regarding holding of State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) and State Level Banking Committee (SLBC) meetings.

Road Links under PMGSY

†2857. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1,41,085 rural settlements were targeted for providing road links in the country by March, 2005 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether this target has actually been achieved; and

(d) if not, the percentage of target achieved by that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana envisaged connectivity to all unconnected rural habitations with population of 500 persons and above (250 in the case of Hill States, tribal (Schedule V) areas and desert areas) through all-weather road by the end of the Tenth Plan period.

(c) and (d) 1,72,787 habitations were found eligible for coverage under the programme, against which, States have reported coverage of 27,833 habitations till May, 2006.

Awas Guarantee Yojana

†2858. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Awas Guarantee Yojana is being formulated for the rural people;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Ministry of Rural Development is taking any steps to formulate this housing policy at the earliest; and

(c) the total amount of funds required for implementation of this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Road Construction under PMGSY

†2859. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plan to connect all villages in the country with a population of 1000 and hilly and tribal villages with a population of 500 with all weather connection road through "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana" under "Bharat Nirman" Plan is being implemented;

(b) whether in order to cover a total of 66,802 settlements under this plan, a plan for construction of 1,46,885 K.m. long rural roads and upgradation of 1,94, 130 K.m. long rural roads has been included; and

(c) if so, the details of progress made so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under Bharat Nirman the target is to connect all the habitations having a population of 1000 and above (500 and above in hilly and tribal areas) with an all weather road by 2009. During this period, 66,802 eligible habitations will be provided all-weather connectivity by constructing 1,46,185 kms. of new rural roads. 1,94,130 kms of existing rural roads will also be upgraded to provide full farm-to-market connectivity.

(c) In accordance with the information provided by the State, the State-wise progress made so far is given in the annexed statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.